

U.S. Serial No. 10/673,534

Response to the Office action of October 3, 2005

Remarks

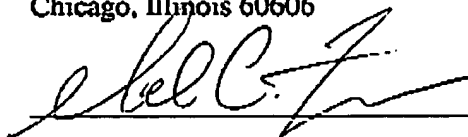
The applicants have carefully considered the Office action dated October 3, 2005. By way of this Response, claims 12-21 have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office action identifies two patently distinct inventions, namely, the invention of claims 1-11 and 22-26 (Group I), and the invention of claims 12-21 (Group II). Applicant hereby elects Group I (i.e., claims 1-11 and 22-26) for further prosecution in this case without traverse. Accordingly, claims 12-21 have been cancelled without prejudice and may be pursued in a divisional application.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

HANLEY, FLIGHT & ZIMMERMAN, LLC
20 North Wacker Drive
Suite 4220
Chicago, Illinois 60606



Mark C. Zimmerman
Reg. No. 44,006
Attorney for Applicants
312.580.1020

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